

REMARKS

The allowability of claims 3-5 and 13-15 is acknowledged. For purposes of expediting prosecution, claim 1 is amended to include the limitations of claim 3 (now canceled), and claim 11 is amended to include limitations of allowable claim 4. Claims 2, 3, 12, and 13 are canceled without prejudice. The amendments are made for the purpose of expediting prosecution and not for patentability, and the claim cancellations are made without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to pursue subject matter of the original claims (prior to amendment) and subject matter of the canceled claims in subsequent prosecution. All remaining claims are thought to be allowable over the cited prior art.

Claim 37 is added to claim the invention in alternative language. Claim 37 depends from allowable claim 11, and recites additional features. Therefore, Applicants believe claim 37 is also allowable.

The rejection of claims 1-2, 6-12, 16, 18 and 20 under 35 USC §102(a), as being anticipated by "Tosaya" (US patent no. 6,538,320 to Tosaya et al.) is respectfully traverse because the Office Action does not appear to show that all the limitations are taught by Tosaya. However, the rejection is now moot in view of the amendments made to claims 1 and 11. Similarly, the rejection of claims 17 and 19 under 35 USC §103(a), as being unpatentable over Tosaya is respectfully traversed but is now moot.

CONCLUSION

Reconsideration and a notice of allowance are respectfully requested in view of the Amendments and Remarks presented above. If the Examiner has any questions or concerns, a telephone call to the undersigned is invited.

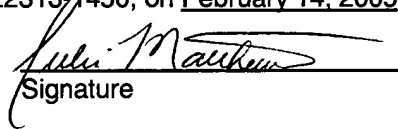
Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on February 14, 2005.

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